

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 212103

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ARA-LA/CEN:DLAZAR
ARA-LA:WGBOWDLER (INFORMATION)

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R 262240Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY LIMA

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E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/73
TAGS: OGEN, AR, BH, BL, MX, NU, GT, PN, CS, ES, PE, HO
SUBJECT: OPRED TRANSFER OF FBI FUNCTIONS AND CLOSURE OF
FBI OFFICES AT LA PAZ AND MANAGUA

1. FOLLOWING WHAT IS APPARENTLY A MOST COMPREHENSIVE
CONSIDERATION OF FACTORS INVOLVED, THE DIRECTOR OF THE FBI
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INTENDS TO CLOSE TWO LATIN AMERICAN OFFICES IN DECEMBER AND

INCORPORATE THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND SOME OF THE POSITIONS ELSEWHERE IN THE AREA.

2. THIS DECISION IS PART OF A GEOGRAPHICALLY LARGER DETERMINATION TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF FBI PERSONNEL ABROAD IN BOTH EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA FOR REASONS OF BOTH ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY. IN THE EUROPEAN AREA, THE COPENHAGEN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED AND ITS POSITIONS ABOLISHED THE RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE LONDON OFFICE AND THAT OFFICE'S JURISDICTION WILL BE AUGMENTED TO INCLUDE THE FOUR SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES. IN THE ARA AREA, THE OFFICE IN LA PAZ WILL BE CLOSED, ITS POSITIONS TRANSFERRED O MEXICO CITY AND ITS TERRITORY, NAMELY BOLIVIA AND PERU, THEREAFTER COVERED BY THE CURRENT FBI STAFF OUT OF THE BUENOS AIRES OFFICE. SIMILARLY, THE OFFICE IN MANAGUA WILL BE CLOSED, ITS POSITIONS ABOLISHED AND ITS FUNCTIONS TRANSFERRED TO MEXICO CITY; THIS OFFICE WILL THEN COVER ALL OF CENTRAL AMERICA FROM PANAMA NORTH PRIMARILY BY MEANS OF ROAD TRIPS. ONE NET RESULT OF THE OVERALL CHANGE IS THAT FBI WILL BE ABLE TO ELIMINATE FIVE

OVERSEAS POSITIONS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LEGATTS HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED PROPOSED CHANGES WITH CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED AND THAT QUESTIONS AND VIEWS, SUCH AS THOSE EXPRESSED RECENTLY IN SEVERAL AMBASSADORIAL TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS, WERE FULLY RECOGNIZED AND WEIGHED. DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS TRANSFERS OF FUNCTIONS AND FBI STAFF REDUCTIONS AS PLANNED AND BELIEVES THAT THERE WILL BE NO APPRECIABLE DETERIORATION OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE OVERSEAS FBI REPRESENTATION. KISSINGER

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